

REMARKS

The following remarks are submitted to address the above amendments and issues raised in the Official Action mailed September 27, 2006.

A Request for Extension of Time to extend the period for responding to this Office Action to February 27, 2007, is filed herewith.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 30-34 and 36-40 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-4, 6-19, 21-29, and 35 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a), as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,837,248 (Zawadzki et al.). Claims 1-29 and 35 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a), as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,929,013 (Ashcraft et al.). Claims 30-34 and 36-40 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

No new matter has been added. Support for requested amendments can be found in the original claims and throughout the present specification and drawings. Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-4, 6-19, 21-29, and 35 — 35 USC § 103(a)

The rejections of claims 1-4, 6-19, 21-29, and 35 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zawadzki et al. are respectfully traversed. Claims 1-4, 6-19, 21-29, and 35 have been canceled herein. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections of these claims is now moot. For all of these reasons, the Office is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections of claims 1-4, 6-19, 21-29, and 35 under 35 USC § 103(a).

Claims 1-29 and 35 — 35 USC § 103(a)

The rejections of claims 1-29 and 35 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ashcraft et al. are respectfully traversed. Claims 1-29 and 35 have been canceled herein. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections of these claims is now moot. For all of these reasons, the Office is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections of claims 1-29 and 35 under 35 USC § 103(a).

Claims 30-34 and 36-40 — Allowable Subject Matter

The objections to claims 30-34 and 36-40 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim are respectfully traversed.

The Official Action states that claims 30-34 and 36-40 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. (Official Action, para. 4.) Claims 30-34 and 36-40 have been rewritten herein in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

For all of these reasons, the Office is respectfully requested to withdraw the objections to claims 30-34 and 36-40 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that a full and complete response has been made herein to the Official Action and, as such, all pending claims in this application are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests early consideration of the present application, entry of all amendments herein requested, withdrawal of all rejections and objections, and allowance of all pending claims.

The Office is respectfully invited to contact J. Michael Boggs at (336) 747-7536, to discuss any matter relating to this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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